

WHATCOM COUNTY Tobacco Use Statistics

ADULTS

Adult Tobacco Use

- Our most recent survey data showed that about 17.3% of adults in Whatcom County smoke cigarettes.¹

Quit Line

- 444 people from Whatcom County called the Quit Line last year.²

YOUTH

Current Cigarette Smoking

- Our most recent survey data showed:³
 - 6th grade: 1.9% in Whatcom County, and 2.2% statewide, reported they currently smoke cigarettes.
 - 8th grade: 9.4% in Whatcom County, and 9.2% statewide, reported they currently smoke cigarettes.
 - 10th grade: 13.2% in Whatcom County, and 15.0% statewide, reported they currently smoke cigarettes.
 - 12th grade: ** in Whatcom County, and 22.7% statewide, reported they currently smoke cigarettes.

PREGNANT WOMEN

Smoking During Pregnancy

- About 10.2% of pregnant women in Whatcom County smoke during pregnancy, compared to 12.0% statewide.⁴
- About 200 infants are born each year in Whatcom County to mothers who smoke during pregnancy.⁵

¹ Data are from the 2003 Department of Health Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). A 'current smoker' reports having smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and also responds "every day" or "some days" to the question "Do you smoke cigarettes now?" This estimate has a $\pm 5.0\%$ margin of error – this means that the "true" population value (percent of current smokers) is most likely somewhere in this range of the reported percentage, but may not be exactly equal to the reported percentage.

² Data include counts of tobacco users, health care provider, and other callers seeking information from the Washington State Tobacco Quit Line between January 1, 2003, and December 31, 2003, who identified themselves as being residents of Whatcom County.

³ Data for Whatcom County were collected from youth who participated in the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) in Fall 2002. The 95% confidence intervals for estimates in Whatcom County are: 6th grade (1.2,2.7), 8th grade (7.8,11.3) and 10th grade (11.3,15.3). The confidence intervals mean that the "true" population value (percent of current smokers) is most likely somewhere in the range of the reported percentage, but may not be exactly equal to the reported percentage.

Data for Washington were collected as part of a statewide sample of youth for the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) in Fall 2002. The 95% confidence intervals for estimates are: 6th grade (1.8,2.6), 8th grade (8.1,10.3), 10th grade (13.6,16.4), and 12th grade (20.5,25.0).

⁴ Data are from 2002 Washington State Birth Certificates. 95% confidence intervals are also reported in addition to birth certificate data. The confidence intervals for Whatcom County are (8.8,11.8); the confidence intervals for Washington State are (11.7,12.2). Women who answer 'yes' to the question "Did mother smoke at any time during pregnancy?" are classified as smokers. Health risk behaviors like smoking during pregnancy may be underreported due to growing social unacceptability of unhealthy behaviors during pregnancy.

⁵ The number of infants born to mothers who smoke during pregnancy are calculated using an average of the births to mothers who report smoking on the Birth Certificate from 2000-2002. The estimate is rounded to the nearest factor of ten.